4560 X&T

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Dec. 24 - 1907

At Denver from 1:30 P.M. to 9:50 P.M. Found F. M. Dille at his office, and he took me out to the Colorado Museum of Natural History located on a hill in the City Park. The building is an elegant concrete edifice suited solely for museum purposes. It seems that the building has been constructed by private wealthy citizens, but that there is no endowment for its support. It is hoped that it can be turned over to the City and an appropriation be provided; otherwise the interest seems to be lacking to carry on the work. The Chief Taxidermist is Victor H. Borchardt, with 2 or 3 assistants; they are working on

groups of Colorado big game; and the quality of the work looked to me excellent. There are already completed groups of antelope, buffalo, and mountain goats, and probably a dozen other single large mammals. There are a few bird groups, the best being of the White-Tailed Ptarmigan, 4 cases together showing the four seasonal plumages; a case of flamingos is not so good; and there is a miscellaneous lot of other things. This museum hasn't a great quantity of stuff; I saw no research collections. But the building is fine.

Then I was taken to the State Capitol Building where I saw the miscellaneous collections of the State Historical and

Natural History Society, with Horace G. Smith as assistant Curator and apparently the main worker. There were no groups in sight here, but plenty of mounted birds in wall cases. The system emphasized was that of having a sort of superficial exhibit in show case on top of chests of drawers containing the systematic research collections. The fungi were especially well arranged.

Then Prof. Geo. L. Cannon, of the High School took me down to the Colorado Scientific Society's rooms located in the Denver Chamber of Commerce. This is devoted exclusively to a library and collection relating to geology and mining.

The evening was spent with Robt. B. Rockwell, discussing Condor affairs; and we visited L. J. Hersey, an elderly man who evidently knows a lot about birds. He has a lot of the larger species mounted, among which are several rarities for the State. Hersey and Rockwall together have a card catalog of their field notes, tho it seems to me considerably too bulky. They also had an album of very good photos, mostly of nests and eggs of ducks, coots, grebes, rails & dove.

Denver so far doesn't seem to be succeeding as well as it ought in the museum line. The several societies should concentrate. There seems to be a lot of jealosy.

Jan. 11-14.

At Am. Mus. of Nat. History, New York City, Jan. 11, 13 & 14. The important feature here is the bird exhibit. There are some 12 or 14 ideal groups, the summit of the development along this line, together with a larger number of the older or less successful style. The most successful & latest groups owe their splendid effectiveness to the artistic painted backgrounds as well as the well selected life-history groups themselves. Perfection in the blending of foreground, of real materials, with the painted background showing the typical landscape (usually an actual landscape painted on the spot where materials of group were obtained). In the

case of tree-top groups, or mountain aeries, such as those of condor & eagle, the effect of distance and depth is wrought by having a hiatus in front of background, and actual declivity between it and foreground. Flying birds on background were first painted on paper, then cut out & introduced by means of pins slightly projected from rear of background scene. This makes, for example, the flying condor appear above the gorge, suspended in mid-air. All groups & paintings were from photos taken in the field, & represent actual poses & scenes. Reflection from the glass front is prevented by having

canvas shades across gallery say 10 feet in front; so no light gets into picture except from above:

artificial lighting by series of incandescents out of sight above the groups, also heightens realism. Most group backgrounds are 7' high by 18 feet long, latter arranged in semicircle or: ⌒. The San Joaquin valley group is far larger.

Small, far cheaper, single specie groups are also [illegible] success; four-sided glass cases with pair of common birds & their nest in natural surroundings, as with ovenbird.

The study series at Am. Museum are not particularly

well cared for. There is no reference catalogue, & dept. catalogues are in old-style ledger form. Tags are too large. One method is good a rubber stamp is used on original labels. To provide space for museum number without necessity of typing on an additional label:

With mammals until recently there has been a running number separately for skins & skulls!

The Cambridge cans are in use & seem to me they are too small, waste space, & piled too high (on racks). Our tin cases are better.

Jan. 17

Went out to Thayer's. Thayer lives near Lancaster on a large country place 1½ miles or thereabouts from Clinton, which, in turn, is about 40 miles East from Boston. Thayer's museum is in the town of Lancaster near an electric RR so that it is more easily reached. Thayer is a fat man of 45, or so, very talkative & affable, & wealthy: times to take care of 14 millions, so he says! (left him by his father). The museum is of brick & of good size, with tile finishing inside, only the doors & furniture being of wood. The mounted collection, containing everything obtainable on the A.O.U. list,

is arranged systematically
& stands behind glass.
There are besides many
small groups neatly arranged
with artificial foliage, etc.
especially for school use.
Among the birds, mounted, I
saw Labrador Duck, Gt Auk,
Heath Hen, Kites Parrots, etc., etc.
The Skin collection is
systematically stored in
tall zinc cases, the doors
being hinged & swinging,
& fixed with clamps which
hold the door against the
rubber rim. The trays are
heavy-framed with heavy
paper bottoms. The cases
is thus expensive. The
Skins from Mexico &
Lower Calif. made by Brown
are the most perfect I
ever saw I saw the big

series of Toxostoma r. helva
taken on coast of No. S. Cal.
They look to me mightily
like P. redundus.

The most attractive & best
cared for part of the Museum
was the egg collection. Both
eggs & nests were all inside
of the square, black-lined, glass
topped paste-board boxes of
varying sizes to suit the
specimens. When eggs only,
the trays were shallow &
filled up with cotton around
the set, so that box could
be tilted without displacing
the eggs any; in other
words the eggs were almost
held against the glass top
by the fluff of cotton holding
them. Many nests
in situ were also set up in
shelves behind glass doors.

The journal method of numbering numbers was employed, - the neatest I have seen. If this method were adopted Thayer's books should be used as model. Besides this, Thayer has card reference catalogs for his library, & all specimens. He does all this detailed work himself, tho he has the best taxidermists to mount his birds & to re-make poor skins. The latter he does regularly. His library is very extensive, & includes the most expensive bindings & all the monographs. The library is at his luxurious home, out of Lancaster a mile or more

Recd from Miss Alexander:

Dec. 12 P.O. Money Order $ 8 00

" 14 Check 350 00

Paid out on Alexander Acc't.

			$
Dec.	12	1 Aux.	6 00
"	19	Round Trip Ticket 1st Class to Chicago	$110 00
"	.	Pullman berth to Oakland	2 50
"	20-21	Dinner + Bkfast + 4 Tips	1 60
.	21	Car fares & Berkeley	20
.	"	Tourist berth to Ogden	2 75
"	22	Bkfast + 2 tips	85
"	22	Dinner + Supper + 3 tips	1 70
.	23	Bkfast	50
.	"	Berth Ogden to Denver	2 00
"	"	Supper	75
"	24	Bkfast + Tip	40
"		Lunch + dinner at Denver	1 00
"	"	Pullman, Denver to Chic.	6 00
	25	Bkfast + 2 tips	80
"	.	Lunch + Dinner + 2 tips	1 00
"	26	Bkfast + 2 Tips	55
"	"	Admission to Museum + check	30
.		Supper (4)	1 10

Dec.	26	Room	1 35
"	27	Bkfast (3)	1 50
"	27	Supper & tips	1 10
"	"	Berth to Wash.	5 00
"	"	Ticket to Wash.	17 50
"	28	Bkfast	40
"	"	Lunch	60
		Messenger & service at Wash	70
"	29	Bkfast & car fare	35
"	30	dinner	75
"	"	Bkfast	25
"	31	"	30
"	"	dinner	50
Jan	1	Bkfast, dinner & car fare	65
Jan.	2-5	Meals, etc.	2 00
"	5	Wash's Hotel bill (Wash.)	7 00
"	6	2 meals & Car fare	1 20
"	"	Express on box to Phila.	6 20
"	7	2 Meals 3	1 30
"	8	Hotel bill (Wash.)	4 60
"	"	Ticket to Phila.	3 40
"	9	meals	1 25
"	10	"	1 35

Jun.	17	Round Trip to Clinton	1 50
"	18	Bkfast	50
"	"	dinner	40
"	"	Supper	75
"	"	Porter tips	25
"	"	Berth to Chic	3 00
"	19	Bkfast	25
"	"	Berth to Los Angeles	14 00
"	20	Bkfast	50
"	"	Lunch	70
"	"	Dinner	90
"	"	Porter	25
"	21	Bkfast	50
"	"	Porter	25
"	"	lunch	85
"	"	dinner	80
"	22	Porter	25
"	"	Bkfast	50
"	"	Lunch	55
"	"	Cab	1 00

Jan.	10	Hotel bill at Phil.	3	00
"	"	Ticket to N.Y.	2	25
"	11	Meals	1	50
"	12	Meals		25
"	"	Round trip to H.PK.	1	00
"	12+13	Car fare		30
"	13	BKfast		35
"	"	Hotel bill	6	00
"	14	BKfast		30
"	"	Telegram		85
"	15	Ticket to Boston	4	65
"	"	Supper		35
"	"	Cab		50
"	16	BKfast		55
"	"	Car fare		25
"	"	dinner		80
"	17	BKfast		25
"	"	2 meals	2	25
"	"	Telegrams (2)		70
"	"	Hotel Bill	3	00
"	"	Ticket to Chicago	21	95
"	"	Berth to Buffalo	2	50
		Total	$ 280	50

Jan. 28 1 M shells underwriter + express chgs 10.55

#188 Bubo m. saturatus (H.C.O.)
Extreme of darkness (black + buff)
toward Lagophaeus.

#131 Ardea herodias fannini (H.C.O.)
Extreme of darkness; back
dark slate; size small; plumes
on scapula not developed & dark
more slatey.

#134 Archibuteo l. sanctijohannis
dark like others from
Labrador, Wash., Oreg, & Utah (winter)
Seems to be a geographic form. (?)

#47 Falco anatum
not peale: Characters of peale don't
seem to be constant geographically
possibly not separable in adult
plumage! Young = type. No
adults show characters. (?)

#206 Astur atricapillus striatulus

Young, darK, blackish & more rusty than eastern young; dorsal tail bars very black; whole dorsal surface exceptionally darK.

#164 Buteo borealis (subsp?)

Smaller, blacker, & rustier than eastern birds; flanks strongly barred, all eastern, males have plain flanks (boots), tail more barred. Is a light phase, yet has blacKer backR than the darKer phases of calurus. (J.H.R.)

#207 Accipiter velox rufilatus

Very dark dorsally as compared with coastal birds in same age

Type of rufilatus = ad. ♂ from Ft. Bridger = a rather pale slatey-backed bird, not like darK NW coast birds.

No synonyms.

#141 ♀ Aythya affinis (OK)

#78 ♂ Phalacrocorax pelagicus not explendens. Seems to be more brilliant than Behring Sea examples; possibly robustus. Has a very heavy bill. See measurements in all books.

#14 ♂ } Lendragapus obscurus (subsp?)
#105 ♀ } Both darker: ♂ blacker on rump & mid back & forebreast, whole plumage more sooty than in any oregon or Washington birds; ♀ with much deeper & more extensive brownish bars dorsally & laterally. Size larger. Type of fuliginosa browner, but as large.

#130 ♂ Lagopus rupestris ♂(?)

Very dark, only equalled by Evermanni from attu. All the others lighter. But mine with barred (finely) chest while evermanni = uniformly black. (Look up moults). Next nearest like nelsoni. Inverse vermiculations very fine.

#135 ♂ Lagopus lagopus ♂

Very rusty + brown dark (?). Feathers of dorsum mostly black with incomplete wavy bars, + no white terminal bars no suspicion, or buff from elsewhere. Feathers of rump + upper tailcoverts with much broader black bars + that rusty bars are narrower. terminal bands narrow and yellowish instead of nearly white. Study bills.

#99 ♂ *Picoides ~~dorsalis~~ americanus*
(subsp.?) Smoky breast! ∴
homologous to *D. v. harrisi*; White
Spotting on wings reduced. ♀
Bill large. Tail below without
bars showing. Smoky pink
pervading white on sides of
head and forehead. As compared
with southern Alaskan skins, far
less white, bill larger, wing
shorter, & white pervaded with
smoky.

#1 ♂ *Sphyrapicus varius* subsp.(?)
mid-dorsal stripe reduced to a
series of lemon-yellow flecks;
coloration, yellow & red, brilliant;
flanks & sides with more black;
bill large.

54 ♂ Loxia leucoptera

Color different from any from east, or no. Alaska. - more orange red, instead of pinkish red. No other characters.

90 ♀ same.

27 ♂ Loxia c. minor Color more orange than any other birds

121 ♂
62 ♀
} Pinicola enucleata flammula
D.K.

#20 ♀
60 ♂
} Iringa cousei D.K.

13 ♂
91 ♀
} Passerella iliaca townsendi

Compared with type = a little more sooty, like fuliginosa.

The 5 song sparrows are probably rufina. But authority should be Bonaparte probably (file Richmond). Bp. Consp. Av. I, 1850, 477.)

'"Emberiza rufina, Brandt, Ins. Ross. t. 2. 5. e Sitka. Minor: rufo-cinereum, dorso maculis rufo-brunneis: subtus albicans, maculis rufo-brunneis; rostro producto, gracili." This song description doesn't fit the sparrows. However better let it go!

4

Robins: #18 ♂ compares with type of propinqua as follows: breast deeper chestnut, wings, tail & back for deeper & darker, wing much shorter. With a typical eastern bird it is similar except that black of head is abruptly defined behind, and it lacks the terminal white tail spot. A good subsp.

#41 } Ilsonia pusilla pileolata
#55 } O.K.

Bubo — "dark: like
saturatus,

Alcoholometer

Hirsch & Kaiser.

Short — Scale 0 — 100 %

Duty free — alc.

Western Distillers

~~See W. D. Clark~~

See G. A. Clark

Whitall Tatum & Co.

Phila.

Jars.

Paper on Osteological methods = Scolick in Bull. U. S. N. M.

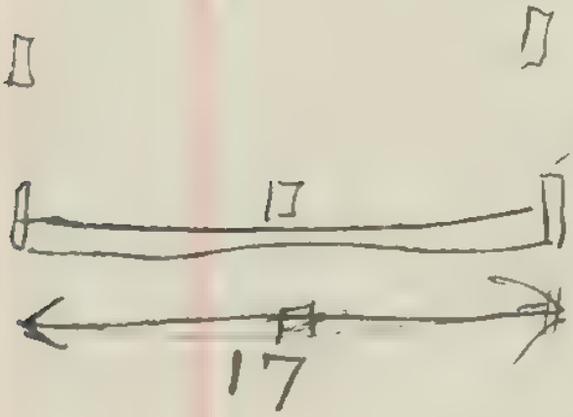
Zeiss Bin. Erecting Mic.

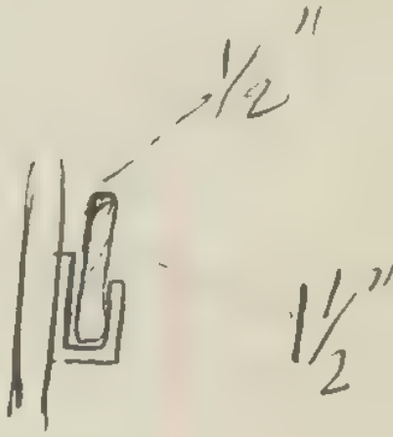
Bausch & Lomb

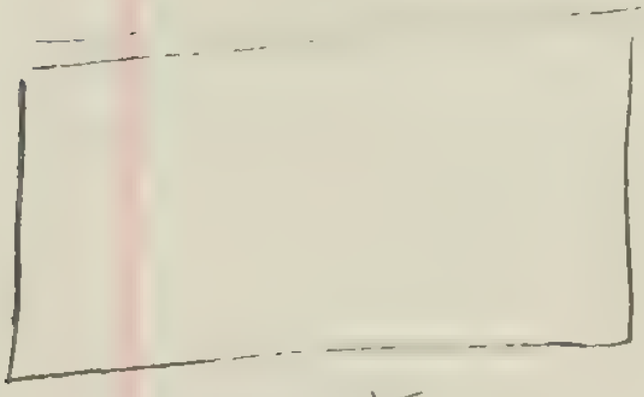
108 in. duty

Reptile racks

7/8" stuff







protector

Size

∴ = 3" X 6"

Write for Catalog.

Whitall Tatum & Co.
Phila.

Rich; enquire from Snyder

Zinc tag numbers
as K. J. Snyder

(?) Patrick & Co., S. T.

" Official Printing Press
5 - X 7 1/2 (2) ($25)

Get type at

Am. Type Foundry

not "amateur" type

Get Smallest Printers Case:

Yankee Job Case

2/3 size.

Am. Type Founders Co.,

San Francisco, Cal.

(Send for catalog).

Get leads & rules cut to

ems. (labor-saving).

Get Metal furniture

Plate glass ~~for~~ instead of stone.

Wooden (made) galley.

Wheels must be but slightly less

in diameter than rollers.